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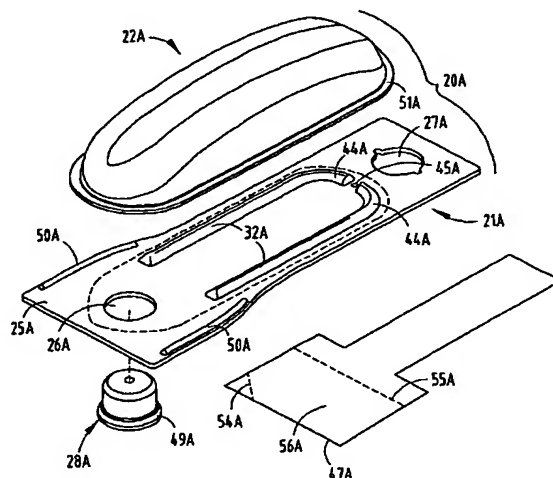
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DISPENSER/SPREADER ARTICLE FOR SPACKLING AND PASTE



(57) Abstract: A spreader (20A) includes a first and second preformed components of resilient PVC sheet (21A) and deformable PVC sheet (22A), respectively, bonded together and shaped to form a blister-shaped sealed container filled with spackling material or paste. The resilient sheet forms an enlarged blade suitable for spreading the spackling material and forms an opening (26A) at the one end for dispensing the spackling material onto the blade and includes ribs (50A) to stiffen the blade. A hole (27A) in the other end forms a docking station. A resilient plug (28A) fits in the opening to seal the opening to maintain the spackling material for later use, and is repositionable into the docking station for holding the plug while using the spreader. The container is suitably sized for grasping and manipulating the blade while dispensing material.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/11769

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A47L 13/30; B43K 1/06, 5/00, 5/18, 23/12; B43M 11/06
US CL : 401/261,262,264-266; 222/107; 206/216,229,461,469

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 401/261,262,264-266; 222/107; 206/216,229,461,469

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,963,045 A (WILLCOX) 16 October 1990 (16.10.1990), entire document.	20, 27, 29, 34-37, 39-41, 43, 44
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Y		24, 25, 42
X	US 4,921,137 A (HEIJENGA) 01 May 1990 (01.05.1990), entire document.	34-36, 38, 43, 44
X	US 3,86,666 A (HERZIG et al.) 30 December 1969 (30.12.1969), entire document.	34, 35, 38, 41, 43, 44
A	US 6,007,264 A (KOPTIS) 28 December 1999 (28.12.1999), entire document.	1-44
A	US 5,111,932 A (CAMPBELL) 12 May 1992 (12.05.1992), entire document.	1-44
A	US 4,648,506 A (CAMPBELL) 10 March 1987 (10.03.1987), entire document.	1-44
A	US 4,470,521 A (SCAMMELL) 11 September 1984 (11.09.1984), entire document.	1-44

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/11769

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/11769

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

1. This International Preliminary Examining Authority has found 3 inventions claimed in the International Application covered by the claims indicated below:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-32, 43 and 44, drawn to a dispensing spreader.

Group II, claim(s) 33-42, drawn to a method of bonding PVC sheets.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In order for more than one species to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid. The species are as follows:

Species I: Figs. 1-9; and
Species II: Figs. 10-19.

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Species I: claims 1-19; and
Species II: claims 20-33, 43 and 44.

The following claim(s) are generic: none.

2. This International Searching Authority considers that the International Application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below:

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the invention of Group II does not have the special technical feature of a dispensing spreader for spreading paste or spackling material as indicated in the invention of Group I.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: in Species I, the spreader is a container with a remote docking structure on sheet of material; and in Species II, the remote docking structure is only on one sheet component.